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The Bird Book. Illustrating in Natural Colors more than 700 North American Birds; also Several Hundred Photographs of Their Nests and Eggs. By Chester A. Reed. 471 pp. Index. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, 1915. \$3. 10 x 8.

This volume is typographically and artistically one of the best that the reviewer has seen. Seventeen orders and more than 700 kinds of North American birds are comprehensively described. Most of these are splendidly illustrated in their natural colors, with photographs of their nests and eggs. Many other photographs show characteristic habitat groups. The typography of a bird is given on a frontal page, thus very materially assisting amateurs to an understanding of any technical terms used in descriptions. Combined with the splendid coloring, this establishes the book as one that amateurs may well use. All bird lovers should have a copy on their shelves. The descriptions include both common and scientific names, ranges, breeding habits, feeding and other habits, details of size, materials and other characteristics of nests, color markings, and size of eggs. The orders and families of birds also receive adequate treatment.

R. W. SHARPE.

United States: Colonies and Dependencies. The travels and investigations of a Chicago publisher in the colonial possessions and dependencies of the United States. By William D. Boyce. xvi and 638 pp. Maps, ills., index. Rand McNally & Co., Chicago, 1914. 9 x 6.

A western newspaperman's story of his personal investigations of those peoples upon whom our nation has exercised its national influence. His survey takes in Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippines, Porto Rico, the Canal Zone, Cuba, Santo Domingo and Haiti. Throughout, the newspaperman's art of getting at the facts through personal interviews with people on the spot is in evidence. It is asserted that the laws governing railroads and homesteads in Alaska are such as to retard the growth of the country. It is maintained strongly that the abandonment of United States sovereignty in the Philippines would be unwise and unjust and that it will be several generations before Porto Rico can be fully incorporated. Numerous high-class reproductions of the camera embellish the book.

In the Oregon Country. Out-Doors in Oregon, Washington, and California together with some Legendary Lore, and Glimpses of the Modern West in the Making. By George P. Putnam. xxi and 169 pp. Ills. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1915. \$1.75. 8 x 5½.

Enthusiasm for the Westland is the apology and motive for this breezy and natural account of personal experiences, canoeing, camping and "hiking" over the hinterland of Oregon. Theodore Winthrop's "Canoe and Saddle" is quoted for Indian legends of mountain and river. The ups and downs of homesteading in the sage brush lands opened by the government to settlers are pictured with realistic pathos. Those who are fond of "back-to-naturing" will enjoy reading this simple and unaffected narrative of actual contact with homely folk in the far west, and of the enjoyment of outings in the open air of Oregon. The Governor of the state writes an appreciative introduction. The reproductions of camera views are the best of their kind.

Missouri River Basin. By W. A. Lamb, Robert Follansbee and H. D. Padgett. Part 6 of Surface Water Supply of the United States, 1912. 375 pp. Ills., index. U. S. Geol. Surv. Water-Supply Paper 326. 1914. 9 x 6.

The Missouri River is considered navigable to Fort Benton, Montana, 2,285 miles above its mouth. Above Fort Benton for 49 miles to Great Falls the river consists of falls and rapids with an aggregate drop of 695 feet. The 217 miles above Great Falls to Three Forks, where the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin Rivers form the Missouri, are navigable, but several power dams have broken the continuity of this waterway. Numerous pools and bars make low water navigation uncertain and a large number of snags make it hazardous. The maximum draft at mean low water from the mouth of the river to Kansas City is 4 feet,

from Kansas City to Sioux City 3 feet, and from Sioux City to Fort Benton 2 feet. Up to June 30, 1913, the government had spent over \$14,000,000 on the river. Work on the removal of snags began in 1838 and has been continued at intervals since. Most of the money has been used to prevent bank erosion in local areas, to protect private property from the ravages of the river and in surveying. Engineers generally agree that the possibility of regulating the river so as to make it a channel of commerce has been demonstrated; that the cost of such regulation will be great; and that a general and not a piecemeal policy must be adopted. The data given in this volume demonstrate the wastefulness of a policy which spends money to improve any section of the river as a unit independent of the remainder.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

The Tourist's Maritime Provinces. With chapters on the Gaspé Shore, Newfoundland and Labrador and the Miquelon Islands. By Ruth K. Wood. 440 pp. Maps, ill., index. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1915. 7½ x 5½.

A guide to Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and New Brunswick which enriches the handbook by a great deal of tradition, history and romance. The history of the various towns comprises the bulk of the volume, but everywhere along the route the author indicates the points of interest and the tourist's attention is directed to the characteristics of the land and the people. ROBERT M. BROWN.

The Indian To-day. The past and future of the first American. By Charles A. Eastman. (The American Books.) 185 pp. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, 1915. 60 cents. 7½ x 5.

The author's father was a full-blooded Sioux and his mother a granddaughter of a Sioux chief. He has recently been employed by the U. S. Indian Bureau to give permanent family names to the Sioux. In 1911 he represented the American Indian at the Universal Races Congress held in London. That he is thoroughly qualified to write this book becomes at once quite evident.

The volume is divided into 11 chapters, an interesting bibliography and a table of Indian Reservations. It is the aim of the book "to set forth the present status and outlook of the North American Indian." It is an excellent exposition of the evolution of Indian affairs since the days of early settlement.

A few striking statements are worth noting. "The two great 'civilizers' were whiskey and gunpowder . . ." "The appropriation for 1915 was over \$4,500,000, yet even more is needed." "The value of crops raised by Indians during the last fiscal year is estimated at more than four millions." "In a word, the typical red man of to-day is a rancher on a large or small scale." "Half our states have Indian names, and more than that proportion of our principal lakes and rivers."

EUGENE VAN CLEEVE.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

Old Panama and Castilla del Oro. By Dr. C. L. G. Anderson. xv and 559 pp. Maps. The Sudwarth Co., Washington, 1911. 9½ x 6½.

An entertainingly written account of the golden age of Spanish discovery and conquest in the New World, prepared by a surgeon of the Medical Reserve Corps of the United States Army, and late physician to the Isthmian Canal Commission. The well-worn story of Spanish conquistador and British buccaneer lends itself readily to the telling and the reader will follow with pleasure the description of the geography of the Isthmus of Panama, the narrative of the dream of Columbus, the four voyages which he made to America, the exploits of the other conquistadors, among them Balboa and Pizarro setting out from Panama for the conquest of Peru. Early descriptions of Panama, based on original documents, follow, and the search for a strait then supposed to exist, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, as well as early attempts to cut a canal. The famous Sir Francis Drake then steps upon the scene and the buccaneers of the Spanish Main follow in his footsteps. Then Henry Morgan, the foremost of buccaneers, again sacks Panama and the Scotsmen found their ill-starred colony